



Valles Caldera National Preserve
Facilities Maintenance/Upgrade – Road Maintenance
Stewardship Register

Stewardship Action: Facilities Upgrade	File Number: PLAN –
Target Start Date: 2004	Responsible Official: Preserve Manager
Target Completion Date: 2005	Signature Date: May 11, 2004
Actual Start Date:	Actual Date of Completion

Proposed Action:

The Valles Caldera Trust is proposing to maintain open roads on the Valles Caldera National Preserve. This proposal includes the maintenance and reconstruction of VC02 (previously known as Road B) from its junction with VC01 east -northeast to the junction of VC09. VC02 will be maintained as a single lane, drained aggregate surfaced road with turnouts. Approximately .15 miles of the road will be realigned as it approaches the history grove. This minor realignment will reconnect the hydrology of the adjacent wetland and reduce current erosion and sediment deposit caused by the current grade and sweep. This road will be suitable for all weather standards, highway loading capacities, and low clearance vehicle use, including buses and trucks (similar to the current maintenance level of VC01). Activities will include:

- Removal/Installation/Replacement of cattle-guards, culverts, metal gates
- Embankment Excavation
- Borrow Excavation
- Placement of pit-run aggregate
- Placement of permeable cloth and fill
- Machine and hand placed riprap
- Dust abatement
- Reconstruction and construction of turnouts
- Seeding
- Clearing and grubbing

Background:

This proposal is a part of the Facilities Upgrade/Maintenance Stewardship Action Proposal posted on the Valles Caldera Preserve website on November 26, 2003 and contained in the Trust's Annual Operating Plan which was presented at the public Board meeting on September 12, 2003 and approved by the Board at the public Board meeting November 14, 2003. VC02 is the main access road to the greater area of the Preserve beyond the headquarters area by visitors, employees, researchers, contractors and others having business on the Preserve.

Location:

Work will be accomplished on 10.7 miles of existing road from the intersection of VC01 with VC02 ENE to the intersection of VC09.

Purpose and Need:

- To provide safe access via motorized vehicle to the interior areas of the preserve for visitors, employees, contractors, volunteers, researchers, guests and others
- To reduce sedimentation into the Jemez River and San Antonio Creek currently being deposited due to inadequate drainage leading to a channeling of water during storm events and spring run-off.
- Reduce effects to other resources including archeological features resulting from erosion.
- To control access/movement by livestock and vehicles.

Performance Requirements:

The following measures provide detail regarding the implementation of the proposed Stewardship Action:

1. Road maintenance will occur within the present alignment of VC02 with the exception of the above described realignment.
2. An archaeologist will be available to monitor excavation activities.
3. Trees cut for the purpose of maintenance shall be bucked and decked for removal based on utilization standards. Material not meeting utilization standards shall be chipped or masticated on site.
4. Cattle-guards and culverts in good condition will be salvaged and removed to a designated area within the preserve or removed from the Preserve.
5. All suitable excavated material will be conserved for utilization as backfill.
6. Before bringing equipment onto the project site equipment will be cleaned of all soil and plant parts to prevent spread of noxious weeds.
7. **Conditions identified in the attached archaeological report**
8. The following Best Management Practices (Forest Service handbook 2509.22, Chapter 40) will be applied:

• 41.1-Erosion Control Plan	• 41.11-Timing of Construction Activities
• 41.12-Road Slope Stabilization	• 41.14-Control of Road Drainage
• 41.15-Timely Erosion Control Measures on Incomplete Roads and	• 41.16-Construction of Stable Embankments (Fills)

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Stream Crossing Projects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 41.17-Control of Sidecast Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 41.25-Maintenance of Roads
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 41.26-Road Surface Treatment to Prevent Loss of Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 41.27-Traffic Control during Wet Periods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 41.4-Restoration of Borrow Pits and Quarries	

Implementing Decision:

It is my decision to implement the proposed Stewardship Action, with all performance requirements as described, without the preparation of an environmental document. This decision is categorically excluded from such documentation under category 101.6 (5) *“Routine repair and maintenance of facilities and administrative sites including but not limited to, buildings, fences, water systems, roads, trails, signs, and ancillary facilities associated with the administration and management of the Preserve...”*

An inventory of the road network on the Preserve is ongoing at this time. The completion of this inventory is necessary to facilitate the development of a comprehensive transportation plan for the Preserve. Prior to the completion of the inventory and transportation plan; maintenance of open roads on the Preserve is necessary to provide for the safety of people and protection of resources.

An environmental analysis was conducted by resource specialists in the employ of the Trust to ensure that no extraordinary circumstances are present and are likely to create an outcome of greater significance due to their presence. Extraordinary circumstances include but are not limited to a high level of public interest; extreme weather or climatic conditions; or the potential for effects on critical resources such as cultural resources or threatened or endangered species.

Prepared by: Marie E. Rodriguez, Natural Resource Coordinator
May 11, 2004

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The Valles Caldera Board of Trustees
Public outreach through the public Board Meetings and web site postings.
(All comments received in response to the reconstruction and maintenance of VC01 were reviewed and considered)
Visitors, employees, contractors, researchers, and others who traveled on the existing road (not all comments documented)
Valles Caldera Trust Executive Team
Valles Caldera Trust Resource Management Staff
State Historic Preservation Officer

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/s/

Dennis Trujillo
Preserve Manager

May 11, 2004

Date

Monitored Outcomes

This facility upgrade meets or provides the specific metrics towards meeting the objectives as described in the Purpose and Need.

Objectives	Metrics
1. Increased safety and comfort for people traveling on open roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade, taper, surface and number and position of turn outs
2. Reduced sediment transported into the East Fork of the Jemez River and San Antonio Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation and repair of culverts; effectiveness of dips, drainages, lead outs; riprap
3. Protect heritage resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road design for out slopes and archaeological sites• Reduction in effects to archaeological sites occurring as a result of current road conditions.

Evaluation of Monitoring Information

As information from monitoring is evaluated, describe conclusions and any new information as guided by 101.7(b)

Amendment 9/15/2005 – Original (signed) Stewardship Register was lost or destroyed the electronic document has not been altered from the original
(MER 9/15/05)